The Mestenhauser Legacy Initiative was launched by the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance at the University of Minnesota to recognize the legacy of Professor Josef Mestenhauser. Through this collection of innovative programs and scholarship, we strive to honor Professor Mestenhauser’s long commitment to international education.

Programs supported by the Mestenhauser Legacy Fund

Mestenhauser Student Award for Excellence in Campus Internationalization: The student award recognizes outstanding student contributions to international education. Two awards are given annually; each recipient receives a $500 scholarship.

Your gift of $1,000 will fund two awards; endow the student awards with a gift of $25,000.

Mestenhauser Lecture Series: This annual lecture and resulting publication provides an academic forum in which scholars from around the world present thought-provoking scholarship on the internationalization of higher education.

Your gift of $2,000 will sponsor one of the annual lectures; endow the lecture with a gift of $50,000.

Mestenhauser Visiting Fellow: The Visiting Fellow program allows the University to invite one scholar to campus for an extended period of time to deepen the work of campus internationalization.

Your gift of $4,000 will support one scholar; endow the Visiting Fellow program with a gift of $100,000.

Ways to make a gift

Support the growth and future of the Mestenhauser Legacy Initiative! Your gift will strengthen the programs that honor the legacy of Josef Mestenhauser and ensure the continuation of these innovative programs.

Donate to the Mestenhauser Legacy Fund
Make an outright gift of any size to the Mestenhauser Legacy Fund. Give online at global.umn.edu/icc/legacy or contact Diane Young at young054@umn.edu or 612-624-8819 for a gift form.

Sponsor a program
Your gift can directly sponsor or endow one of the innovative programs sponsored by the Mestenhauser Legacy Fund (see list on left).

Gifts can come in many forms, including cash, pledges, stocks, or bequests. Please contact Diane Young at 612-624-8819 or young054@umn.edu to learn more about a giving opportunity that is right for you.
About Josef Mestenhauser

Josef A. Mestenhauser was Distinguished International Emeritus Professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. His more than fifty-year career included various roles as teacher, researcher, administrator, counselor, and consultant. Dr. Mestenhauser earned a doctorate from Charles University (Czech Republic), Faculty of Law, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Political Science and International Relations. He published extensively on a wide range of topics, including international education, educational exchanges, international studies, transfer of knowledge, cross-cultural relations, leadership development, cultural change, educational reform, and professionalism.

Mestenhauser Student Award

Recipient Spotlight

Douglas Kennedy is a Ph.D. student in the University of Minnesota’s Comparative and International Development Education Program. Inspired by the experiences of his Distinguished Fulbright Award in Teaching grant in Tamil Nadu, India, Douglas has worked with Fulbright colleagues to build collaborative partnerships and international study programs in India and South Africa. Among many other commitments to Internationalize the University of Minnesota, Douglas has served as a student representative to the College of Education and Human Development’s International Education Committee; his work with the committee includes a project to promote the internationalization of higher education and faculty collaborations on international education projects by providing access to resources, information, and opportunities to engage. Through this position, he also worked to build a collaborative partnership between the college and an education trust in Mumbai, India.

For more information about the Mestenhauser Legacy Initiative, please contact Gayle Woodruff at 612-625-6065, gwoodruf@umn.edu or Elizabeth Schwartz at 612-625-8829, schw1304@umn.edu.

For questions regarding giving opportunities, please contact Diane Young at: 612-624-8819 or young054@umn.edu.